

(1) [4.]

THE  
BEHAVIOUR  
AND  
EXECUTION  
OF

Robert Green } Two of the Persons condemn'd at the  
and } Kings-Bench Bar, February 11th, for  
Laurence Hill, } the most Notorious and Barbarous Mur-  
ther of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, the  
Twelfth of October last.

Who Suffered at

**TYBURN**

On Friday, February 21, 167<sup>8</sup>.

With an Account of their Lives, Conditions,  
Deportment after Sentence, Discourses with  
Mr. Ordinary, and other most  
remarkable Circumstances.

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*Having at the Publishers Request perused this Sheet, I do certifie,  
That the Discourses betwixt me and the Prisoners, and other  
matters of Fact therein, are truly related.*

Samuel Smith, Ordinary.

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L I C E N S E D. 167<sup>8</sup>.

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L O N D O N: Printed for L. C. 167<sup>8</sup><sub>9</sub>.

# THE MAGAZINE AND EXECUTION

Robert Green, Editor of the Boston Commonwealth, is the  
author of the following works, published by the  
Commonwealth Press, No. 100, Broadway, New York:  
The Commonwealth, a History of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
from its first settlement to the present time.

77 No. 2nd Street, N.Y.

## TYBURN

On Friday, February 22, 1857.

With an Account of the Trial, Confession,  
and Execution of the Criminals with  
the Sentences and other notes  
of the Court.

For sale by the  
Commonwealth Press, No. 100, Broadway, New York.

LICENSED BY

The Behaviour and Execution of  
*Robert Green, and Laurence Hill, who*  
 Suffer'd at Tyburn Feb. 21. 1673;

**T**He Murther of that Noble true Eng-  
 lish Protestant Patriot, Sir *Edmund-*  
*bury Godfrey*, is now so notoriously  
 known, not only throughout Eng-  
 land, but I hope our Neighbour Na-  
 tions too, (especially of the Reformed Religion)  
 that it will be wholly unnecessary with any Ar-  
 tifice of Rhetorick, to draw forth the Readers  
 Compassionate Tears for that worthy Gentlemans  
 Martyrdom, or raise up his just indignation  
 against the base and barbarous Assassins that  
 were the Authors of it. It was on Saturday the  
 12th day of *October*, this Bloody Fact was Com-  
 mitted, which long lay concealed in darkness, black  
 as that which had over-spread their Souls who were  
 concerned in it. But at length, that infinite ad-  
 mirable Power, the Avenger of Innocent Blood, who  
 hears the cries of his Slaughtered Saints from under  
 the Altar, and brings Light out of Darkness, was  
 graciously pleased to make some discovery of this  
 Hellish Crime, upon which, several persons were

committed to custody. And of them, three on the 10th of this instant *February*, were brought to their Tryal at the Kings-Bench Bar at *Westminster*, where after a fair hearing, and full Evidence, by a Jury consisting of persons of Worth and Quality, they were found guilty, and next Morning received Sentence of Death. The particulars of the Proof and Tryal, we shall not intermeddle with, but rather refer the Reader for his full satisfaction therein, to that intire and perfect Narrative, which the World may shortly receive from the indubitable approbation of Authority.

Of these three persons Attainted of the Felony and Murther, one (on some important considerations) is (at least for some time) thought fit to be graciously Reprieved. An account of the other two, *viz. Robert Green* and *Laurence Hill*, as to their Behaviour, &c. after Sentence till Execution, we shall briefly, but most truly and impartially give you.

*Robert Green* was an Irish-man born, his Father a Protestant, as himself acknowledged, but his Mother (whose weaker Sex rendred her more lyable to such absurd delusions) a Papist, who bred him up with an Uncle of his, in the Popish Heresie, though his Education was so mean, that he could neither Write nor Read. But where Ignorance is celebrated as the Mother of Devotion, he was so much the apter Instrument for Jesuitical Engines of subtilty to make use of. His aforesaid Uncle instructed him in the common Notions and Prayers  
of

of the Romish Superstition; and he had his abode in *Ireland*, till he was 16 or 18 years old, being now 54 years of Age.

They being all after Condemnation kept separately in *Newgate*, *Mr. Ordinary* according to his place, and ready inclinations to Christian Charity, offering him his Assistance, Advice, Exhortations, and Prayers, he very modestly accepted of his visits; who frequently exhorted him (as the first step to a sincere and hearty Repentance) to unburthen his Conscience, by a free, full, and ingenuous Confession of the horrid Murther for which he stood Condemned, and justly was to suffer, using all the perswasive Arguments he could to that purpose. But though he seemed to hearken to his Admonitions, yet could he not be prevailed upon therein, but rather appeared to stand it out in self-justification of his Innocence as to that particular. Which (as *Mr. Ordinary* very well observed unto, and pressed upon him) could not be (considering the plainness of the Evidence, and apparentness of the Crime and his Guilt) but upon one, or all of these three Reasons, *viz.*

1. That either they were under an Oath of Secrecy, which (as he truly told him) was a wicked Oath, and in that case not at all obligatory.

2. Or that betwixt the time of the Murther committed, and that of their Apprehension, some Priest had given them a pretended Absolution; and so they conceited themselves now Innocent: which *Mr. Ordinary* had the more reason to urge, because  
of.

of some former experiences he had had of common Felons, who in such case had resolutely denyed even at place of Execution, with their last breath, those very Crimes, which but some days before they had freely Confessed to himself; and that meerly on the reason aforesaid. Which there is good reason to believe, not only from his irreproachable Testimony, but even from that Popish Doctrine which some of them have not blusht to assert, *Quod non peccat mortaliter, qui negat se admisisse peccatum Mortale, alio legitime Confessum*, Navar. in Man. Cap. 21. Num. 38. *That Man sinneth not mortally, who having shaven himself of some Mortal sin, denies afterwards that he was ever guilty of that sin.*

3. Or lastly, That they believed it to be a meritorious act to kill an Heretick, as they call every Protestant; for so too runs their Hellish Doctrine. *That any private man may lawfully Take, Spoil, and Kill such Hereticks as are so denounced to be, and burn their Houses over their Heads---* Symancha Inst. Cathol. Cap. 45. Numb. 13.

To all which he declined to answer much in particular, but onely gave a general denial, though he did confess that in other matters he had been a great sinner against God, &c. And upon some occasional discourse, justifying himself from some particular sins, did declare that he accounted Fornication (and much more Adultery) not to be Venial; but mortal sins; nor did believe any sin to be Venial in its own nature. He also affirmed, that he

he did not believe some of the grossest points of Popery ; yet said, he was resolved to live and die in the Roman Catholick Religion, (as he called it) because he was born and bred in it. To which Mr. Ordinary most appositely answered, and told him, that was no argument ; for then he might likewise resolve to live and die in sin, because born in, and too much accustomed to that also. He replied onely, That he would venture his Eternal State in cleaving to the Religion he had been bred in, and would hear no Arguments to the contrary.

Mr. Ordinary yet failed not daily to visit him, instructing and exhorting him to Repentance, and Faith in the alone all-sufficient merits of Christ. To which he was very attentive, as also to the Exhortations of another Reverend and Worthy Divine sent to assist in that work of Charity, and joyned with much seeming affection in Prayer with them. And so thanking the Ordinary on the Thursday for his great pains, and saying he would excuse him from attending him at the place of Execution, yet in the mean time desired his Prayers, took his leave of him.

*Laurence Hill*, the other unhappy Criminal, was born and bred up in the Popish way, and resolved likewise to live and die therein. He declared that he was not a Shoemaker, as hath been reported, but put forth to be a Servant about 13 years of age, and successively continued in that condition, (at least till very lately) being 34 years old at the time.

time of his death. He would not (though much pains and many such Arguments as to the other, too tedious here to be related, were used to him) confess the Crime for which he suffered; but in general, that he had been a great sinner; and particularly said, that he never wrong'd any person, but one of a very inconsiderable sum, (which he specified) and of which (he said) he had lately made restitution.

He would not admit any Protestant Divine to pray with, yet desired their Prayers at home for him; and so thanking Mr. Ordinary for his pains, and praying God to reward him, took his leave of him, excusing him likewise from further attendance.

On Friday the 21th of *February* they were both pretty early in the morning convey'd in a Cart to *Tyburn*, where, after very few words, and some short private Prayers, they were Executed.

**F I N I S.**



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